THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (d) As per the latest available data with the Central Statistical Organisation, saving rate measured in terms of gross domestic savings as a proportion of gross domestic product at current prices was 23.3 per cent in 1996-97, 24.7 per cent in 1997-98 and 22.3 per cent in 1998-99 (quick estimates). The decline in the saving rate in 1998-99 is attributed to a decline in the saving rate of both the public sector and the private sector. A higher saving rate is necessary to achieve annual growth rate of 8-9 per cent. For promoting savings it is imperative to improve the parameters which have a bearing on savings behaviour which include rate of growth in the economy, level of fiscal deficit, tax policies, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and the capital market and confidence in the economy.

Capital benefits earned by FIIs

†251. SHRI DINANATH MISHRA:
DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the annual details of the total capital benefits earned by the foreign institutional investors since they have been allowed to trade in the Indian stock market;

(b) what is the year-wise amount of tax paid by them on such type of benefits;

(c) the total capital benefits earned by the foreign institutional investors through the Mauritius route by going out of the tax ambit; and

(d) the total amount of capital benefits earned by the foreign institutional investors through the Sisily route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) to (d) The relevant information is not maintained.

Companies enjoying capital gains tax benefit under DTAA

252. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of companies which were enjoying the capital gains tax benefit under Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement had their origin somewhere else and had only a front company in Mauritius; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of such companies and action taken, if any, again them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Mauritius allows incorporation and registration of offshore companies for making investments in other countries includig India. Such companies are eligible to avail the benefits under the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention with Mauritius.

The treaty benefits were denied by the Assessing Officers in Mumbai to 24 Mauritius based companies for the assessment year 1997-98 in the orders issued in March, 2000.

Direct Tax Tribunals

253. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Direct Tax Tribunals in the country alongwith the number of cases pending with each of them as on 31st March, 2000, locationwise;

(b) the details of outstanding loans recovered by Direct Tax Tribunals over the past three years;

(c) the details of fresh directives issued by the Ministry of Finance to the Tribunals and recovery targets set for the current year; and

(d) whether there is any proposal for setting up more such Tribunals in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) Sir, there is only one Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) in the country under the administrative control of the Ministry of Law & Justice. The pendency of cases with the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal as on 31.3.2000 is 2,62,652. However there are 14 Debt Recovery Tribunals and 4 Debt Recovery Applellate Tribunals in the country. The number of cases pending with 14 Debt Recovery Tribunals is 37889 as on 31.3.2000.

(b) The Income Tax Appellate Tribunal does not recover outstanding loans. however, outstanding loans recovered by the Debt Recovery Tribunals as on 31.3.2000 is Rs. 1398.40 crores.

(c) The instructions are issued to the banks from time to time to take necessary steps to recover the money from the borrowers. The banks are required to